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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, APRIL 2, 2002

PETITION OF

SYLVATUS EXCHANGE CUSTOMERS

CASE NO. PUC010150

For Extended Local Service from
United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.'s
Sylvatus exchange to its Wytheville
exchange

FINAL ORDER

In February 2001, telephone customers in United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.'s ("United" or the "Company") Sylvatus exchange petitioned the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for local calling to Wytheville. On June 29, 2001, the Company submitted the cost study used to estimate the approximate change in the monthly rate that will result from the extension of local calling.

On August 20, 2001, the Commission issued an Order directing United to poll its Sylvatus exchange customers to determine whether a majority of those customers were willing to pay an increase in rates for local calling to Wytheville.

United submitted the results of its poll on October 24, 2001, which showed that a majority of those responding to the poll supported the proposal. A poll of customers in the Wytheville exchange was not required under § 56-484.2 A of the Code of

Virginia because the proposed rate increase for one-party residential service does not exceed five percent of the existing monthly one-party residential flat rate.

By Order dated December 11, 2001, the Commission directed United to provide notice of the proposed increases in monthly rates to customers in the Wytheville exchange. Customers were given until January 25, 2002, to file comments or requests for hearing on the proposal. No comments or requests for hearing were filed. On January 17, 2002, United filed proof of notice as required by the Commission's December 11, 2001, Order.

On February 7, 2002, the Commission Staff submitted its report wherein the Staff states that although the original petition was from Sylvatus to Wytheville, these two exchanges are not contiguous, as required by § 56-484.2 of the Code of Virginia. The Austinville exchange is between the Sylvatus and Wytheville exchanges and does not have extended local service to Sylvatus. According to the Staff, United conducted a cost study and proposed to add the Austinville exchange to the Sylvatus petition at no additional cost to the Sylvatus or Austinville customers. The Staff states that, when ordered to implement, United will notify customers in all three exchanges of the extended local service by bill messages and local newspaper advertisements. The Staff recommends implementation of two-way

extended local service among United's Sylvatus, Wytheville, and Austinville exchanges.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) The proposed extension of local service among United's Sylvatus, Wytheville, and Austinville exchanges shall be implemented.

(2) United shall notify its customers in all three exchanges of the implementation of extended local service by bill messages and local newspaper advertisements.

(3) There being nothing further to come before the Commission, this docket is closed, and the papers filed herein shall be placed in the file for ended causes.